

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of activating an alert upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of events and generating and updating a trigger, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of at least one health symptom experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of generating is performed by a main computer;

monitoring occurrences of the at least one health symptom within a time window;

comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom within the time window to the trigger, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom is performed by the main computer;

activating an alert indicating ~~the~~an occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the at least one health symptom exceed the trigger; and

updating the trigger at an update frequency, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, wherein the step of updating the trigger is performed by the main computer.

19-47. (CANCELLED)

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the at least one health symptom from an emergency services dispatcher.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the at least one health symptom from a dispatcher computer.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the at least one health symptom from a first geographical area.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 50 further including the step of accumulating occurrences of the at least one health symptom in a second geographical area which includes the first geographical area and which is larger than the first geographical area.
52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 50 wherein information about the at least one health symptom is provided at a variable time.
53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 further including the steps of receiving a geographic location of each of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom and associating the geographical location with each of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom.
54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 53 further including the step of displaying the geographical location of each of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom on a display.
55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 further including the step of adjusting a first trigger to generate a new trigger and then comparing the new trigger to the occurrences.
56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the trigger is a statistical variation of historical values of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom.
57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 further including the step of weighting the at least one health symptom relative to one another.
58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 further including the step of calculating the trigger prior to the step of comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the at least one health symptom include headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the events include a biological attack and a chemical attack.

61-63. (CANCELLED)

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 62 wherein the trigger is based upon criteria, the method further including the steps of changing criteria of the trigger and recalculating the trigger based upon the changed criteria and the historical occurrences.

65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim ~~64~~65 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms, and the criteria for the trigger includes the plurality of symptoms, the step of changing the criteria including the step of adding a symptom to the at least one health symptom.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the criteria for the trigger includes the plurality of symptoms and a statistical relationship to the historical occurrences, the step of changing the criteria including the step of changing the statistical relationship to the historical occurrences.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18 further including the step of adjusting a sensitivity of the trigger.

68. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of adjusting the sensitivity of the trigger is based on a national threat level.

69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18 further including the steps of contacting an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and then inputting the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.

70-91. (CANCELLED)